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ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board during 1996

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96/1. Assistance to Myanmar

The Executive Board

1. Approves continued funding of activities in the sectors previously outlined in Governing Council decision 93/21;

2. Authorizes the Administrator, on a project-by-project basis, to approve projects for a total amount not exceeding $52.076 million during the period 1996-1997;

3. Requests the Administrator to submit, at its first regular session 1997 and at its first regular session 1998, an assessment of the extent to which the assistance provided to Myanmar continues to meet the provisions of present Executive Board decisions, including Governing Council decision 93/21.

16 January 1996

96/2. Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO)

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (DP/1996/7) and expresses appreciation for the important inter-agency cooperation work undertaken by the Office within the framework of the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group, which has proven to have an important impact on programme deliveries, economy of operations and transparency in the use of public funds;

2. Reaffirms that under its mandate for research and development on procurement-related matters for the United Nations system, the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office shall continue to promote inter-agency cooperation and coordination, where possible finding ways of making such activities self-financing;

3. Also reaffirms that, under its mandate for procurement services, the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office shall continue to provide a full range of such procurement services to the organizations of the United Nations system and to partners in development outside the United Nations system, including non-governmental organizations, Governments and government agencies, building upon the capacity it has developed in common-user items, as defined by the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group, and other product groups for which the Administrator shall determine that the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office has the requisite capacity;

4. Encourages the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office to seek ways of coordinated procurement arrangements with United Nations entities to draw on respective strengths of each entity and thus provide better services to the development community, and in particular to programme countries;

5. Requests the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office to present a consolidated biennial report to the Executive Board on its activities, including direct procurement, and to provide a full statistical report on United Nations system procurement at its third regular session 1996;

6. Confirms paragraphs 41 to 43 of its decision 95/28 with regard to the 1996-1997 biennial budget for the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office, including the modified staffing table and revised grade structures of IAPSO.

17 January 1996

96/3. Global contraceptive commodity programme

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report, as contained in document DP/FPA/1996/3, and of the comments made during the Executive Board session;

2. Endorses the establishment of a global contraceptive commodity programme, to be managed by the United Nations Population Fund, and funded with an initial capitalization of $5 million, as set out in paragraph 23 of document DP/FPA/1996/3, as an integral component of the overall work of the Fund in strengthening reproductive health programmes, including family planning and sexual health, and emphasizes that these activities should be monitored carefully to ensure that they adhere to technical standards of safety and quality;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit an annual progress report on the activities and the management of the global contraceptive commodity programme to the Executive Board, paying particular attention to the progress in strengthening national capacities to deal with the logistical aspects of contraceptive procurement;

4. Requests the Executive Director to engage in further appropriate collaboration and coordination with other relevant United Nations entities, in particular, the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office and the World Health Organization, active in the fields of procurement and reproductive health;

5. Requests the Executive Director to arrange an overall independent and external evaluation of the global contraceptive commodity programme at a time to be decided by the Executive Board, particularly with regard to its impact on national capacity-building in order to provide the Board with the information required to make a decision on whether the programme should be continued or ended.

19 January 1996

96/4. United Nations technical cooperation activities

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (DP/1996/8);

2. Invites the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations entities and departments to give further attention to strengthened programmatic linkages within their respective mandates;

3. Recommends that the United Nations Development Programme consider including in its evaluation work plan an evaluation of the activities of the Department for Development Support and Management Services that it finances, including a value-for-money audit.

19 January 1996

96/5. Preparation of reports for the Economic and Social Council substantive session 1996

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme contained in document DP/1996/9, and of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund contained in document DP/FPA/1996/6, and the comments made thereon;

2. Urges the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to ensure that their reports to the Economic and Social Council substantive session 1996 fully address issues to be discussed in accordance with relevant decisions and resolutions of the Council and the General Assembly, including Council resolutions 1995/50, 1995/51 and 1995/56 and General Assembly resolution 50/120;

3. Requests that the content of the reports of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund for the Economic and Social Council substantive session 1996 be such as to enable the Council to compare achievements made by each organization and to identify problems and recommend appropriate actions, on issues relating to, inter alia, allocation of resources, harmonization of procedures and budget presentation, common administrative services and premises and monitoring and evaluation;

4. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, together with the Executive Directors of the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, to agree on a common format and structure for their reports for the Economic and Social Council substantive session 1996, taking into account paragraph 2 of the present decision.

19 January 1996

96/6. Documentation

The Executive Board

1. Recalls the importance of strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations, in particular General Assembly resolution 50/11;

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to establish a working group on document distribution issues, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, with the participation of the departments concerned and in association with representatives of the linguistic groups;

3. Requests the Administrator to submit a report to the Executive Board at its annual session 1996 on the status of this issue and to propose concrete solutions.

19 January 1996

96/7. Implementation of the successor programming arrangements

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report contained in document DP/1996/3, of comments made by delegations thereon, and of the clarifications provided by the Administrator during the discussions of the report and requests the Administrator to ensure that the guidelines be in full conformity with those clarifications, which will also be contained in the report of the first regular session 1996, and that the revised guidelines be submitted to the Executive Board as soon as possible, and no later than at the annual session 1996;

2. Reaffirms that the country cooperation framework is the central document in the country programming process and that the recipient Government has the primary responsibility for the formulation of the framework, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, as well as for the coordination of all types of external assistance, in order to integrate the assistance effectively into its development process;

3. Stresses the importance it attaches to the mechanisms for coordination at the country level established in General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 50/120 and reaffirms that the country cooperation framework should be formulated in accordance with those resolutions;

4. Notes that the country cooperation framework should be based on a realistic estimate of income from both core and non-core resources;

5. Requests the Administrator to submit, in a timely manner, the country cooperation framework as formulated by the country concerned, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, to the Executive Board for

approval. The country cooperation framework should be based on national plans and priorities, country-specific circumstances and lessons learnt from previous cooperation as well as the mandate and programme priorities of the United Nations Development Programme. The country cooperation framework shall outline the overall strategy proposed for United Nations Development Programme cooperation. The country cooperation framework should set measurable targets where possible for the results and impact expected as well as outline management arrangements for execution and implementation, coordination, monitoring and review as well as a resource mobilization strategy and target for all resources managed by the United Nations Development Programme;

6. Decides that country cooperation frameworks shall be approved as submitted, without presentation and discussion, unless at least five members have informed the secretariat in writing before the meeting of their wish to bring a particular country cooperation framework before the Executive Board. The secretariat shall inform all members of the Board of which country cooperation frameworks will be presented to the Board;

7. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board at its annual session 1996 a proposed format and timing for review reports, based on information generated from the new system for programme monitoring, periodic review and oversight, the actual assignment of resources, available relevant evaluations and the periodic review of the operational activities of every country office, that will enable the Board to review the actual implementation of the country cooperation framework in each country and lessons learnt as part of the preparation for the next country cooperation framework;

8. Decides that the Administrator shall submit the review reports to the Executive Board, highlighting a representative sample of reports covering a range of programmes that are representative in terms of quality and geography. If necessary, the Board will then provide guidance on future programming. The agreed outcome of the Executive Board review should be a fully integrated part of the preparation for the next country cooperation framework;

9. Requests the Administrator to make available to members of the programme, on a regular basis, lists of available reports on periodic reviews and evaluations of country-programme activities;

10. Decides that the arrangements described above shall take immediate effect, except those contained in paragraph 6, which shall take effect in January 1997 and will be reviewed at the annual session 1997 in light of experience gained therefrom, also taking into consideration country-programming arrangements in the United Nations Children's Fund.

19 January 1996

96/8. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The Executive Board

1. Takes note with appreciation of the information provided by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women regarding the improvement of the financial situation of the Fund;

2. Authorizes the United Nations Development Fund for Women, on an exceptional basis in view of the positive balance of resources, to formulate additional new projects in 1996 for a total amount not exceeding $2 million;

3. Requests that the United Nations Development Fund for Women in future submit in writing to the Executive Board, in accordance with the established rules for the submission of documentation, all proposals requiring action by the Board.

19 January 1996

96/9. South-South cooperation: UNFPA support to "Partners in Population and Development"

The Executive Board

1. Approves the arrangements proposed to support the intergovernmental organization "Partners in Population and Development", as outlined in the report on South-South cooperation: UNFPA support to "Partners in Population and Development" (document DP/FPA/1996/11);

2. Invites the Partners to consider broadening the scope by actively involving other developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in the programmes of "Partners in Population and Development";

3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to report to the Executive Board at the third regular session 1998 on the activities and achievements of this initiative, including the role of UNFPA, and on the justification for further Fund involvement beyond 1998.

19 January 1996

96/10. Strategy for allocation of UNFPA country resources

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report on a new approach for the allocation of United Nations Population Fund resources to country programmes (document DP/FPA/1996/1);

2. Decides to continue its consideration of this agenda item at its second regular session 1996;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Board at its second regular session 1996 a revised document reflecting the comments made by members of the Board on the new approach for the allocation of United Nations Population Fund resources during the first regular session 1996 of the Board.

19 January 1996

96/11. UNDP assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Executive Board

1. Takes into account the recent peace agreements, which foresaw the urgent need to undertake massive reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, as well as the urgent need to restart the development process in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

2. Emphasizes the importance of the creation of conditions conducive to the reconstruction and development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and encourages Member States to provide assistance;

3. Takes note of the request from the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to receive necessary assistance from the United Nations Development Programme at this critical juncture;

4. Welcomes the intention of the Administrator to earmark additional funds for programming activities in 1996; and recommends that the amount should be at least $5 million, and that these funds, to the extent possible, should come from available unprogrammed Special Programme Resources. They are to be utilized for programmes developed by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme;

5. Recommends that, if necessary, additional funds may be allocated by borrowing against line 1.1.3: resources for development in countries in special circumstances. Such action shall not be regarded as a precedent for similar country-specific allocations, which will be based in the future on guidelines being developed for the use of this facility;

6. Welcomes the decision of the Administrator to establish a United Nations Development Programme country office in Bosnia and Herzegovina as soon as possible;

7. Further requests the Administrator to report on the progress of the implementation of the present decision at the second regular session 1996.

19 January 1996

96/12. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 1996

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the first regular session 1996 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Elected the following Bureau for 1996:

President	H.E. Ms. Annette DES ILES (Trinidad and Tobago)
Vice-President	Mr. Rolando BAHAMONDES (Canada)
Vice-President	Mr. Bruce L. NAMAKANDO (Zambia)
Vice-President	Ms. Cecilia B. REBONG (Philippines)
Vice-President	Mr. Milan DUBCEK (Slovak Republic)

Approved the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 1996 (DP/1996/L.1);

Approved the report of the third regular session 1995 (DP/1995/54);

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in New York subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

Second regular session 1996: 25-29 March 1996

Annual session 1996: 6-17 May 1996 (Geneva)

Third regular session 1996: 9-13 September 1996

(Note: 16 May is an official United Nations holiday in Geneva.)

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at these sessions as listed in the annex;

Adopted decision 96/6 of 19 January 1996 on documentation;

ITEM 2: INITIATIVES FOR CHANGE

Took note of the report of the Administrator on the follow-up to paragraph 4 of Executive Board decision 95/22 with the comments made thereon (DP/1996/2);

ITEM 3: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Adopted decision 96/7 of 19 January 1996 on the implementation of successor programming arrangements;

Adopted decision 96/11 of 19 January 1996 on UNDP assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina;

ITEM 4: UNDP: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Adopted decision 96/1 of 16 January 1996 on assistance to Myanmar;

Took note of the extension for the fifth country programme for Fiji (DP/CP/FIJ/5/EXTENSION 1);

Took note of the extension for the fifth country programme for Tonga (DP/CP/TON/5/EXTENSION 1);

Approved the first country cooperation framework for Bangladesh (DP/CCF/BGD/1);

Took note of the programme objectives for Aruba covering the period 1994-1996 (DP/1996/5);

Took note of the programme objectives for Trinidad and Tobago covering the period 1994-1996 (DP/1996/6);

ITEM 5: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AGENCY PROCUREMENT SERVICES OFFICE

Adopted decision 96/2 of 17 January 1996 on the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office;

ITEM 6: UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Adopted decision 96/4 of 19 January 1996 on United Nations technical cooperation activities;

ITEM 7: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

Adopted decision 96/8 of 19 January 1996 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

ITEM 8: AGENCY SUPPORT COSTS

Agreed to postpone consideration of this item to the second regular session 1996;

ITEM 9: UNDP/UNFPA: FOLLOW-UP TO AND PREPARATION FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Adopted decision 96/5 of 19 January 1996 on follow-up to and preparations for the Economic and Social Council;

ITEM 10: UNDP/UNFPA: JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

Agreed to postpone consideration of this item to the second regular session 1996;

ITEM 11: UNFPA: STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Adopted decision 96/10 of 19 January 1996 on the strategy for allocation of UNFPA resources;

ITEM 12: UNFPA: FUTURE ROLE OF UNFPA IN ASSESSING AND MEETING CONTRACEPTIVE REQUIREMENTS AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Agreed to postpone consideration of this item to the second regular session 1996;

ITEM 13: UNFPA: GLOBAL CONTRACEPTIVE COMMODITY PROGRAMME

Adopted decision 96/3 of 19 January 1996 on the global contraceptive commodity programme;

ITEM 14: UNFPA: MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNICEF/WHO JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

Agreed to postpone consideration of this item to the second regular session 1996;

ITEM 15: UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the interim assistance for South Africa (DP/FPA/1996/10);

Approved the additional resources for the UNFPA country programme for Mali (DP/FPA/1996/7);

Approved the additional resources for the UNFPA country programme for Uganda (DP/FPA/1996/8);

Agreed to postpone consideration of the request for the additional resources for the UNFPA country programme for Burkina Faso (DP/FPA/1996/9) to the second regular session 1996;

ITEM 16: UNFPA: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Adopted decision 96/9 of 19 January 1996 on UNFPA support to "Partners in Population and Development";

ITEM 17: OTHER MATTERS

Took note of the presentation by the Administrator of UNDP on the Global Mechanism of the Convention to Combat Desertification (DP/1996/CRP.1) and the comments made thereon.

19 January 1996

Annex

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS

The following subjects are scheduled for consideration at future sessions:

Second regular session (25-29 March 1996)

Item 1. Organizational matters

UNFPA segment

Item 2. UNFPA: Strategy for allocation of UNFPA resources (96/4)

Item 3. UNFPA: Country programmes and related matters

Item 4. UNFPA: Effectiveness of the UNFPA publications programme (95/35)

Item 5. UNFPA: Role of UNFPA in assessing and meeting contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs (95/21)

Item 6. UNFPA: Membership in the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (95/15)

UNFPA/UNDP segment

Item 7. UNFPA/UNDP: Harmonization of presentation of budget and accounts (oral report)

Item 8. UNFPA/UNDP: Joint and Co-Sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNDP segment

Item 9. UNDP: Agency support costs (DP/1995/49)

Item 10. UNDP: Country programmes and related matters (mid-term reviews)

Item 11. UNDP: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters: Follow-up to Executive Board decision 95/28 (§ 14, § 36, § 37)

Item 12. UNDP: Evaluation (92/2, § 3)

Item 13. UNDP: Assistance to the Palestinian people (92/2, § 3)

Item 14. Other matters (including report on field visit)

Annual session (6-17 May 1996 - Geneva)

- Organizational matters

- Rules of procedures

UNFPA segment

- Report of the Executive Director and programme-level activities

- Mission statement of UNFPA

UNFPA/UNDP segment

- Reports to the Economic and Social Council

- Harmonization of presentation of budget and accounts

UNDP segment

- Annual report of the Administrator and related matters (including initiatives for change)

- Matters relating to the programming cycles:

  - Implementation of the new programming arrangements: interim report

- United Nations Volunteers (92/2, § 5)

- United Nations Development Fund for Women

- United Nations Office for Project Services

Third regular session (9-13 September 1996)

- Organizational matters

UNFPA segment

- Financial, budgetary and administrative matters
- Country programmes and related matters

UNFPA/UNDP segment

- Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts
- Reports on field visits

UNDP segment

- Matters relating to programming cycles: follow-up to Executive Board decisions 95/23 and 95/26
- Country programmes and related matters
- Financial, budgetary and administrative matters
- United Nations Development Fund for Women
  - Follow-up to Executive Board decisions 95/18 and 95/32
- Report on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office

1997 sessions

First regular session 1997	13-17 January 1997
Second regular session 1997	10-14 March 1997
Annual session 1997	5-16 May 1997
Third regular session 1997	15-19 September 1997

96/13. Future country programming process of the United Nations Population Fund

The Executive Board

1. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to consider ways of harmonizing the country programming process of the Fund with that of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund. In this context, the Executive Director should review the format for, content and timing of as well as the mode of discussion of the documentation submitted to the Executive Board on country activities;

2. Requests the Executive Director to submit to Member States, after consultations with the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Children's Fund, recommendations on the future country programming process of the United Nations Population Fund based on the results of the above considerations and reviews, no later than at the annual session 1997 of the Executive Board.

26 March 1996

96/14. Role of the United Nations Population Fund in assessing and meeting contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the future role of the United Nations Population Fund in assessing and meeting the unmet needs for contraceptives and the requirements for logistics management (DP/FPA/1996/2);

2. Endorses the proposed future activities of the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in the Developing Countries in the 1990s;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the activities of the Global Initiative as part of her annual report.

26 March 1996

96/15. Allocation of resources to country programmes of the United Nations Population Fund

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on a revised approach for the allocation of the resources of the United Nations Population Fund to country programmes (DP/FPA/1996/15) and of the comments made thereon by the Executive Board;

2. Reaffirms the commitments demonstrated by Member States in the context of adhering to the principles in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

3. Also reaffirms that, in order to achieve the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development, there is a need for adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels as well as of new and additional resources to developing countries from all sources, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, and calls upon those countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the United Nations Population Fund;

4. Endorses the approach for resource allocation contained in the report, including the indicators and threshold levels towards meeting the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development for the year 2005;

5. Also endorses, in this context, the flexible approach to the allocation of relative shares of resources to the new categories of countries as well as to the distribution of resources to individual countries in line with the section of the report entitled "Distribution of resources to individual countries";

6. Decides that the United Nations Population Fund, while using this flexible approach, should give special attention to the least developed countries, low-income countries and Africa;

7. Also decides that the United Nations Population Fund in distributing resources to individual countries within each category should use per capita gross national product as a criterion as well as other appropriate indicators of the level of development of a country;

8. Further decides that the allocation of resources should be based on a comprehensive assessment of the actual needs and requirements of countries, and should take fully into consideration coherent national programmes, plans and strategies on population and development and the need for external resources to complement national financial efforts in the area of population and development;

9. Endorses the procedure for categorization of countries into groups A, B and C as outlined in the report and approves the following relative shares of resources: 67-69 per cent to Group A, 22-24 per cent to Group B, 5-7 per cent to Group C and 3-4 per cent to countries with economies in transition, on a temporary basis, and 0.5 per cent to other countries;

10. Recognizes that some countries may still continue to require programme support in selected thematic areas to assure that the gains already made are not compromised by adverse economic situations;

11. Also recognizes the need to address the problems of significant social sectors and areas not reflected in national average indicators;

12. Reaffirms that the United Nations Population Fund should continue to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation in all groups of countries, both within and between regions;

13. Recommends that the revised approach for resource allocation be introduced in a phased manner, taking into account both the stage of the current cycle of assistance and the status of programme implementation in individual countries;

14. Recommends that the Executive Director undertake a quinquennial review of the system for resource allocation, including a performance assessment of the indicators and their threshold levels, and to report thereon to the Executive Board starting in the year 2000;

15. Requests the Executive Director to provide information in the annual report of the Fund on the level of allocations and disbursements to the categories of countries in line with the revised approach, as well as information on the allocations and disbursements of resources to regions, least developed countries and low-income countries;

16. Also requests the United Nations Population Fund to continue the methodological work needed to further develop indicators for the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development that would be of practical value in serving to assist in allocating resources, including indicators measuring the integration of all components of reproductive health and family planning services.

27 March 1996

96/16. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the reports prepared and the oral presentations made by the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme covering their support to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in particular at the country level, and reaffirms the importance of collective and concerted action on HIV/AIDS by all the co-sponsoring agencies and coordinated through the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

2. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to conclude without delay arrangements with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS relating to the financial, administrative and logistical support to work in the area of HIV/AIDS as well as to clarify the role and function of the national programme officers appointed to provide support to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in accordance with Executive Board decision 94/6;

3. Recommends that the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS be given the opportunity to brief the Executive Board on its activities during the joint UNDP/UNFPA segment at the annual session 1996.

28 March 1996

96/17. Inter-agency coordination in health policy and programming

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the background note on possible membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund in the Joint Committee on Health Policy of the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization (DP/FPA/1996/5);

2. Reaffirms the need for close collaboration at all levels among the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund on matters of mutual interest and related activities, including, inter alia, issues relating to follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to explore ways to further strengthen inter-agency coordination in the area of health policy and programming, in particular with the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, in order to develop coordinated health policies and programmes, including reproductive health, in the context of the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development;

4. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to present an oral report to the Executive Board at its third regular session in 1996 on steps undertaken to implement the present decision.

28 March 1996

96/18. Publications programme of the United Nations Population Fund

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the effectiveness of the publications programme of the United Nations Population Fund (DP/FPA/1996/14) and reaffirms the importance of information and advocacy activities that should enable the promotion of increased awareness and better understanding of Fund activities;

2. Also takes note of the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Population Fund to make most of its publications available in different languages and requests the Executive Director also to take into consideration

the linguistic balances in developing the electronic dissemination of information;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to give special attention to the needs of the Information and External Relations Division publications programme to support information, education and communication efforts at the national and local levels with appropriate means;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in order to strengthen the publications of the United Nations Population Fund, to further develop policy and strategy in the area of communication and information, in the context of the role of the United Nations Population Fund in advocacy and in consultation with the members of the Board as well as with observers and non-governmental organizations, which takes account of the need to prioritize its publications with special attention to the content of other publications of the United Nations and the financial and human constraints of the Fund;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board the strategy referred to in paragraph 4 above prior to the session that will examine the biennial budget estimates for 1998-1999 for administrative and programme support services;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to present in the document concerning the presentation of the biennial budget estimates for 1998-1999 detailed costs of publications, including information on the distribution of publications;

7. Requests the Executive Director to examine and to propose to the Executive Board recommendations to facilitate the timely collection and dissemination of current data contained in the Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World and of the Guide to Sources of International Population Assistance.

28 March 1996

96/19. Programme of assistance to the Palestinian People

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1996/15);

2. Requests the Administrator to envisage increasing the core resources of the United Nations Development Programme allocated to the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People under the future arrangements for the period 1997-1998;

3. Encourages the international donor community to continue its high level of contributions to the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People and to take full advantage of the Programme's well-tested implementation and delivery capacities.

29 March 1996

96/20. UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

1. Recognizes the importance of evaluation and monitoring as mechanisms providing information on the operational progress and impact of United Nations Development Programme activities for all participants in the activities of the Programme, for all Programme staff and for the Executive Board;

2. Stresses the fundamental importance of feeding-back the lessons of monitoring and evaluation into planning and management in order to improve continually the quality of the organization's output, and the need for this concept to be shared by all its staff;

3. Requests the Administrator, in this context, and through the mechanism of the organizational plan, to ensure that evaluation and monitoring are firmly established in the management culture of the United Nations Development Programme by, inter alia:

(a) Raising the profile of accountability and of staff and programme performance monitoring and evaluation in the Programme so that all its divisions recognize its vital importance;

(b) Reviewing and revising, as necessary, and in the light of "initiatives for change" and the successor programming arrangements, the systems and criteria for selecting subjects for evaluation; the handling in evaluations of the Programme's operational implementation of its areas of focus; opportunities for joint evaluations with other United Nations bodies; and the actions required of Programme personnel, including clear objective-setting at all levels;

(c) Linking compliance with monitoring and evaluation procedures with the Programme's personnel management and reporting systems;

(d) Reporting the results of strategic evaluations to the Executive Board;

4. Calls upon the Administrator to ensure that evaluation work has the necessary degree of independence to carry out objective evaluations; and to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 1997 on progress made on the implementation of the present decision.

29 March 1996

96/21. UNDP: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

The Executive Board

1. Recalls its decision 95/28 on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 of the United Nations Development Programme, including paragraphs 13-14 and 34-37;

2. Takes note of the information provided at the current session by the Administrator, and of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/1996/25) as well as of the statement of the Administrator;

3. Takes note of the final allocation of five posts (paragraphs 13 and 14 of Executive Board decision 95/28) as proposed by the Administrator;

4. Requests the Administrator to report to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1996 on efforts to follow up on General Assembly resolution 50/120 on the triennial policy review, in particular paragraph 38 thereof, in which the General Assembly invited the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, specialized agencies and the secretariat, to provide, as appropriate, support to the resident coordinator system, in view of the fact that the Office of United Nations System Support and Services is serving as the focal point in support of the resident coordinator system;

5. Requests the Administrator to review, as appropriate, the proposed organizational structure of the Office of United Nations System Support and Services, taking into account the comments made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to report thereon at its third regular session 1996, in the context of the report on the revised budget estimates;

6. Decides in view of the issues raised in paragraphs 4-5 above, to approve on a provisional basis the proposal relating to the Office of United Nations System Support and Services as contained in paragraph 164-166 of document DP/1995/51;

7. Requests the Administrator, in the context of paragraph 6 above, to bear in mind the necessity of further clarification on the financing of the responsibility given by the Secretary-General to the Administrator for improving the coordination of operational activities for development as well as the ongoing reform process of operational activities;

8. Requests the Administrator to bring the present decision to the attention of the funds and programmes, specialized agencies, and United Nations Secretariat.

29 March 1996

96/22. UNDP communication and information programme

The Executive Board

1. Reaffirms the importance of public information and advocacy measures to promote increased awareness and better understanding of the activities of the United Nations Development Programme;

2. Requests the Administrator in this context to take into consideration accessibility and the linguistic balances, including the development of the electronic dissemination of information;

3. Encourages the Administrator to present an information and publication policy, in the context of the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme and in consultation with the members of the Programme, so that account will be taken of the need to prioritize its publications with special attention to the risk of duplication with other publications of the United Nations and the financial and human constraints of the Programme;

4. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board prior to examination of the biennial budget estimates for 1998-1999, the policy document referred to in paragraph 3 above;

5. Further requests the Administrator to present in the document of the biennial budget estimates for 1998-1999 the detailed costs of publications and of their distribution.

29 March 1996

96/23. Agency support costs

The Executive Board

1. Requests the Administrator to prepare a conference room paper on the agency support costs system;

2. Decides that the Executive Board will consider the proposals contained in documents DP/1996/13 and DP/1995/49 and the additional information requested in paragraph 1 above at its annual session 1996.

29 March 1996

96/24. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1996

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the second regular session 1996 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 1996 (DP/1996/L.6 and Corr.1);

Approved the report of the first regular session 1996 (DP/1996/11);

Approved the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

Annual session 1996: 6-17 May 1996 - Geneva

Third regular session 1996: 9-13 September 1996

First regular session 1997: 13-17 January 1997

Second regular session 1997: 10-14 March 1997

Annual session 1997: 5-16 May 1997 - New York

Third regular session 1997: 15-19 September 1997*

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* Subject to authorization by the General Assembly.

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at the next two sessions as listed in the annex;

ITEM 2: UNFPA: STRATEGY FOR ALLOCATION OF UNFPA RESOURCES

Adopted decision 96/15 of 27 March 1996 on the allocation of resources to UNFPA country programmes;

ITEM 3: UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Adopted decision 96/13 of 26 March 1996 on the future country programming process of UNFPA;

Approved the UNFPA country programme for Cape Verde (DP/FPA/CP/153);

Approved the UNFPA country programme for Ghana (DP/FPA/CP/151);

Approved the UNFPA country programme for Chad (DP/FPA/CP/150);

Approved the extension of, and additional resources for, the UNFPA country programme for the Congo (DP/FPA/1996/16);

Approved the UNFPA country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic (DP/FPA/CP/152);

Approved the extension of, and additional resources for, the UNFPA country programme for Bolivia (DP/FPA/1996/12);

ITEM 4: UNFPA: EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNFPA PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME

Adopted decision 96/18 of 28 March 1996 on the UNFPA publications programme;

ITEM 5: UNFPA: ROLE OF UNFPA IN ASSESSING AND MEETING CONTRACEPTIVE REQUIREMENTS AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Adopted decision 96/14 of 26 March 1996 on the role of UNFPA in assessing and meeting contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs;

ITEM 6: UNFPA: MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNICEF/WHO JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

Adopted decision 96/17 of 28 March 1996 on inter-agency coordination in health policy and programming;

ITEM 7: UNFPA/UNDP: HARMONIZATION OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS

Took note of the oral report of the Administrator and the Executive Director on the harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts and the comments made thereon;

ITEM 8: UNFPA/UNDP: JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

Adopted decision 96/16 of 28 March 1996 on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);

ITEM 9: UNDP: AGENCY SUPPORT COSTS

Adopted decision 96/23 of 29 March 1996 on agency support costs;

ITEM 10: UNDP: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Took note of the overview report on mid-term reviews (DP/1996/12) and the comments made thereon;

Took note of the mid-term review of the fourth country programme for Mozambique (DP/1996/12/Add.1);

Took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (DP/1996/12/Add.2);

Took note of the mid-term review of the first country programme for the Republic of Yemen (DP/1996/12/Add.3);

Took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Brazil (DP/1996/12/Add.4);

Took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Romania (DP/1996/12/Add.5);

Took note of the oral report on follow-up to Executive Board decision 96/11 on UNDP assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina;

ITEM 11: UNDP: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Adopted decision 96/21 of 29 March 1996 on UNDP financial, budgetary and administrative matters;

ITEM 12: UNDP: EVALUATION

Adopted decision 96/20 of 29 March 1996 on evaluation;

ITEM 13: UNDP: ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Adopted decision 96/19 of 29 March 1996 on UNDP assistance to the Palestinian people;

ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

Agreed to forego a decision on the draft report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the internal oversight mechanisms in operational funds and services at the current meeting and that the report of the Executive Board will reflect fully the statements made and the positions of all the members of the Board on the current matter;

Adopted decision 96/22 of 29 March 1996 on UNDP communication and information programme;

Took note of the report on the field visit to China.

29 March 1996

Annex

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS

The following subjects are scheduled for consideration at future sessions:

Annual session (6-17 May 1996 - Geneva)

Item 1. Organizational matters

Item 2. Rules of procedures

UNFPA segment

Item 3. Report of the Executive Director and programme-level activities

Item 4. Mission statement of UNFPA

UNFPA/UNDP segment

Item 5. Reports to the Economic and Social Council

Item 6. Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts

UNDP segment

Item 7. Annual report of the Administrator and related matters (including Initiatives for change)

Item 8. Matters relating to the programming cycles:

- Implementation of the new programming arrangements: interim report

Item 9. Agency support costs

Item 10. United Nations Volunteers

Item 11. United Nations Development Fund for Women

Item 12. United Nations Office for Project Services

Item 13. Other matters

Third regular session (9-13 September 1996)

- Organizational matters

UNFPA segment

- Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

- Country programmes and related matters

UNFPA/UNDP segment

- Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts

- Reports on field visits

UNDP segment

- Matters relating to programming cycles: Follow-up to Executive Board decisions 95/23 and 95/26

- Country programmes and related matters

- Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

- United Nations Development Fund for Women

  - Follow-up to Executive Board decisions 95/18 and 95/32

- Report on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office

1997 sessions

First regular session 1997	13-17 January 1997
Second regular session 1997	10-14 March 1997
Annual session 1997	5-16 May 1997
Third regular session 1997	15-19 September 1997*

* Subject to authorization by the General Assembly.

96/25. Matters relating to rules of procedure, documentation and the functioning of the Executive Board

The Executive Board

A. Rules of procedure

1. Decides to convene an open-ended ad hoc working group on rules of procedure for the Executive Board and requests the Secretary of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund to assist and support the consultations, inter alia, through the preparation of adequate documentation;

2. Requests the President of the Executive Board to report to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1996 on the progress achieved during the process with a view to reaching a final decision on rules of procedure at the first regular session of the Executive Board in January 1997;

B. Working group on documentation

3. Takes note of the interim report of the working group on documentation and the comments made thereon by the Executive Board at its annual session 1996 and encourages the working group on documentation to finalize its work and present a report, including recommendations, to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1996;

C. Functioning of the Executive Board

4. Emphasizes the need to ensure that the approach to the working methods of the Executive Board continue to be flexible and practical;

5. Decides to introduce an annual work plan for the Executive Board and requests the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to prepare, for the third regular session, an outline of issues that could be considered by the Board in 1997, based on previous deliberations of the Board and the organizational priorities and objectives set for 1997, with a view to adopting a work plan for the Board at the first regular session 1997, based on the proposals made on this matter by delegations during the annual session 1996;

6. Recognizes the need for further work to be done on improving the quality and relevance of documentation submitted to the Board and to review the agenda of the Board in order to focus deliberations at each session of the Executive Board.

15 May 1996

96/26. Work plan of the United Nations Population Fund for 1997-2000 and programme expenditure authority

The Executive Board

1. Endorses the programme resource planning proposals of the Executive Director set out in paragraphs 7 to 18 of document DP/FPA/1996/18;

2. Approves the request for the 1997 programme expenditure authority at a level equal to new programmable resources for 1997, currently estimated at $257 million;

3. Endorses the use of the following estimates of new programmable resources from regular resources for the 1998-2000 period: $279 million for 1998; $305 million for 1999; and $334 million for 2000;

4. Also endorses the use of the following estimates of new programmable resources from multi-bilateral funding: $15 million per year for the years 1997-2000.

8 May 1996

96/27. UNFPA: Enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial resource utilization in recipient countries, in particular in Africa

The Executive Board

1. Acknowledges the problem of absorptive capacity and financial resource utilization relating to population programmes in recipient countries, particularly in most African countries, especially the least-developed countries, as noted in the discussions on the reports of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/1996/17 (Part I) and DP/FPA/1996/19);

2. Requests the Executive Director to thoroughly study the problem within the framework of existing United Nations Population Fund institutional structures and systems, in consultation with relevant actors, including, as appropriate, development institutions that are familiar with the programmes of the United Nations Population Fund in recipient countries, particularly those in Africa;

3. Also requests that a study, as well as other means and activities to address this problem, should focus on concrete operational measures that the United Nations Population Fund can undertake to enhance the absorptive capacity and financial resource utilization related to population programmes in recipient countries, in particular, those in Africa. The concrete measures should draw on an analysis of the problems as they are encountered, primarily at the country level;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to present to the Executive Board at its annual session 1998, at the latest, as part of the annual report,

concrete recommendations aimed at United Nations Population Fund actions to enhance the absorptive capacity and financial resource utilization in recipient countries, in particular those in Africa.

17 May 1996

96/28. Mission statement of the United Nations Population Fund

The Executive Board

Endorses the mission statement attached as an annex to the present decision, taking into account the discussions that took place during the annual session 1996 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, as reflected in the report on agenda item 4 of the session, in particular paragraph 84.

8 May 1996

Annex

UNFPA MISSION STATEMENT

UNFPA extends assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and other countries at their request to help them address reproductive health and population issues, and raises awareness of these issues in all countries, as it has since its inception.

UNFPA's three main areas of work are: to help ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, to all couples and individuals on or before the year 2015; to support population and development strategies that enable capacity-building in population programming; to promote awareness of population and development issues and to advocate for the mobilization of the resources and political will necessary to accomplish its areas of work.

UNFPA is guided by, and promotes, the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994). In particular, UNFPA affirms its commitment to reproductive rights, gender equality and male responsibility, and to the autonomy and empowerment of women everywhere. UNFPA believes that safeguarding and promoting these rights, and promoting the well-being of children, especially girl children, are development goals in themselves. All couples and individuals have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children as well as the right to the information and means to do so.

UNFPA is convinced that meeting these goals will contribute to improving the quality of life and to the universally accepted aim of stabilizing world population. We also believe that these goals are an integral part of all efforts to achieve sustained and sustainable social and economic development

that meets human needs, ensures well-being and protects the natural resources on which all life depends.

UNFPA recognizes that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as expressed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and in other internationally agreed instruments.

UNFPA, as the lead United Nations organization for the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, is fully committed to working in partnership with governments, all parts of the United Nations system, development banks, bilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society. UNFPA strongly supports the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the implementation of all relevant United Nations decisions.

UNFPA will assist in the mobilization of resources from both developed and developing countries, following the commitments made by all countries in the Programme of Action to ensure that the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development are met.

96/29. Mission statement of the United Nations Development Programme

The Executive Board

Endorses the mission statement attached as an annex to the present decision, taking into account the discussions that took place during the annual session 1996 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, as reflected in the report on agenda item 7 of the session.

15 May 1996

Annex

MISSION STATEMENT

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED ... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, ... to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends ... to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims ....

From the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations

UNDP is part of the United Nations and upholds the vision of the United Nations Charter. It is committed to the principle that development is inseparable from the quest for peace and human security and that the United Nations must be a strong force for development as well as peace.

UNDP's mission is to help countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable human development by assisting them to build their capacity to design and carry out development programmes in poverty eradication, employment creation and sustainable livelihoods, the empowerment of women and the protection and regeneration of the environment, giving first priority to poverty eradication.

UNDP also acts to help the United Nations family to become a unified and powerful force for sustainable human development and works to strengthen international cooperation for sustainable human development.

UNDP, at the request of governments and in support of its areas of focus, assists in building capacity for good governance, popular participation, private and public sector development and growth with equity, stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system.

UNDP resident representatives normally serve as resident coordinators of the operational activities of the United Nations system, supporting at the request of governments the coordination of development and humanitarian assistance. Resident coordinators also help to orchestrate the full intellectual and technical resources of the United Nations system in support of national development.

UNDP strives to be an effective development partner for the United Nations relief agencies, working to sustain livelihoods while they seek to sustain lives. It acts to help countries to prepare for, avoid and manage complex emergencies and disasters.

UNDP draws on expertise from around the world, including from developing countries, United Nations specialized agencies, civil society organizations and research institutes.

UNDP supports South-South cooperation by actively promoting the exchange of experience among developing countries.

UNDP supports, within its areas of focus, technology transfer, adaptation, and access to the most effective technology.

UNDP receives voluntary contributions from nearly every country in the world. UNDP seeks to ensure a predictable flow of resources to support its programmes. It provides grant funds through criteria based on universality that strongly favour low-income countries, particularly the least developed.

UNDP is politically neutral and its cooperation is impartial. It seeks to conduct its work in a manner transparent and accountable to all its stakeholders.

UNDP is committed to a process of continuing self-evaluation and reform. It aims to improve its own efficiency and effectiveness and to assist the United Nations system in becoming a stronger force for the benefit of the people and countries of the world.

UNDP will continue to support an international development cooperation framework that responds to changing global, regional and national circumstances.

96/30. Namibia: Special status equivalent to that given to least developed countries

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the note by the Administrator (DP/1996/24 and Add.1);

2. Recognizes the similarities of the economic and social development in Namibia and those of the least developed countries;

3. Decides to extend to Namibia for the next three years, starting 1997, special status equivalent to that given to least developed countries.

15 May 1996

96/31. UNDP: Agency support costs

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the reports of the Administrator contained in documents DP/1996/13, DP/1995/49 and the additional information provided on the agency support costs;

2. Reaffirms the continued relevance and importance of the original key objectives of the agency support cost arrangements, which underline that the arrangements shall serve to:

(a) Provide incentives for national execution and ensure that agency technical support services are available to Governments, particularly for nationally executed programmes/projects;

(b) Improve the upstream technical focus of agencies and reduce their administrative and operational involvement in programme/project implementation;

(c) Assign resources that will permit programme countries to exercise increased choice in programme/project implementation;

3. Welcomes the confirmation provided by agency representatives that, following implementation of decision 91/32, agency technical support to national execution as well as the technical focus of the agencies have increased;

4. Decides that, under the successor programming arrangements, the current guidelines for support costs will continue to apply and will be adjusted only to the extent necessary to:

(a) Ensure coherence with the overall procedures, programme review, monitoring and oversight system being established for the successor programming arrangements;

(b) Reflect experience with the support costs arrangements from the fifth cycle;

(c) Accommodate the more simplified system of support costs earmarking;

5. Requests the Administrator to ensure that the agency support cost arrangements become more driven by country priorities and demands within the context of United Nations Development Programme-supported programmes;

6. Also requests the Administrator to promote the relevance of and enhance the linkage of the upstream technical support by agencies to United Nations Development Programme support for national programmes;

7. Decides that the support cost facilities will be administered directly by country offices in close collaboration and consultation with the programme countries and that the facilities should be used to encourage national execution of programmes and projects; and requests the Administrator to promote the involvement of competent and competitive national and regional institutions in support for policy and programme development and technical implementation;

8. Emphasizes the importance of the flexible and notional character of the special allocations under lines 1.6 (resources for implementation), 2.2 (United Nations system support for policy and programme development), 2.3 (technical support services from United Nations specialized agencies) and takes note of the inclusion of the regional commissions in the support cost arrangements;

9. Urges the Administrator to ensure that the support of the regional commissions is focused mainly on upstream work to support national and regional programme development and requests the Administrator to inform the Board of the procedures and areas of concentration for the utilization of support for policy and programme development for regional commissions when they have been finalized;

10. Decides that in order to enhance the incentive for national execution, in accordance with paragraph 22 of document DP/1996/13, any resources assigned for implementation of programmes and projects saved through national execution will become available for additional programming by the country, including the promotion of capacity-building for national execution;

11. Decides that the United Nations Development Programme, in order to simplify the system, should reimburse the cost of administrative and support services to the five large agencies (the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Department of Development Support and Management Services) and the United Nations Office for Project Services with a maximum of 10 per cent, which experience has shown is the present average reimbursement rate for various inputs. Should the actual costs fall below 10 per cent, only the actual costs incurred will be reimbursed;

12. Also decides in the context of paragraph 10 of the present decision that the United Nations Development Programme should ensure that agencies maintain the existing cost measurement system and that the Administrator should continue to report to the Executive Board biennially on the actual costs incurred; and provide recommendations if necessary to revise the reimbursement rate, also for individual agencies;

13. Requests that the United Nations Development Programme, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, make every effort to ensure that the experience of individual countries is disseminated throughout the system and used for the benefit of the larger development community;

14. Encourages the specialized agencies to take all steps to enhance their cost-effectiveness and efficiency in providing administrative and support services;

15. Requests the Administrator to review recent experiences with the agency support cost arrangement at the country level building on the evaluation presented on this matter in 1994 and to report thereon, describing lessons learned and proposing various alternatives, to the Executive Board at the annual meeting 1997 in the context of the review of the successor programming arrangements;

16. Requests the Administrator to inform the specialized agencies and regional commissions of the present decision.

15 May 1996

96/32. United Nations Volunteers

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1996/22);

2. Notes the substantial contribution of the United Nations Volunteers programme to humanitarian, peace-keeping, peace-building, human rights and rehabilitation activities as well as to poverty eradication;

3. Encourages the United Nations Volunteers to intensify participation in the full spectrum of development, humanitarian and peace activities of the United Nations system and its related organizations;

4. Recognizes the work being undertaken by the United Nations Volunteers through the Special Voluntary Fund in supporting community efforts;

5. Recommends that the United Nations Volunteers stand ready to cooperate with Governments and the United Nations system bodies in order to replicate successful results at the country level;

6. Stresses the need for further contributions, including through, for example, co-financing arrangements, to the Special Voluntary Fund for activities of the United Nations Volunteers, the United Nations Short-Term Advisory Resources, and the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals and other United Nations Volunteers operations;

7. Stresses, in this connection, the importance of accountability and transparency as well as the need for timely reporting on United Nations Volunteers activities to the Executive Board;

8. Supports the United Nations Volunteers as the United Nations operational arm of the White Helmets initiative and for the effective implementation of this initiative calls upon countries in a position to do so, to provide support, including financial support, to the window in the Special Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Volunteers, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/139 B and 50/19 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/44;

9. Acknowledges the importance of the contribution made by volunteers worldwide and supports United Nations Volunteers efforts to promote further volunteer work;

10. Takes note, in this context, of the proposal of the United Nations Volunteers to consider having the International Year of Volunteers 2001 as one of the instruments to promote volunteerism.

10 May 1996

96/33. United Nations Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director (DP/1996/23);

2. Encourages the Executive Director to continue his efforts to make the United Nations Office for Project Services more innovative and cost-effective, as recommended by the Management Coordination Committee;

3. Requests that the Executive Director keep the Executive Board apprised of the operational results and financial implications of the reorganization of the United Nations Office for Project Services within the framework of future annual reports, submitted through the Management Coordination Committee.

15 May 1996

95/34. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 1996

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 1996 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 1996 (DP/1995/L.7/Rev.1);

Approved the report of the second regular session 1996 (DP/1995/17 and Corr.1);

Approved the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

Third regular session 1996:	9-13 September 1996
First regular session 1997:	13-17 January 1997
Second regular session 1997:	10-14 March 1997
Annual session 1997:	12-23 May 1997 - New York
Third regular session 1997:	15-19 September 1997

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at the third session 1996 and first session 1997 as listed in the annex;

ITEM 2: RULES OF PROCEDURE

Adopted decision 96/25 of 15 May 1996 on matters relating to rules of procedure, documentation and the functioning of the Executive Board;

ITEM 3: UNFPA: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Took note of the annual report of the Executive Director for 1995 (DP/FPA/1996/17 (Part I)), taking into account the views expressed by delegations during the discussion on the item as reflected in the report on the session;

Took note of the report on the status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects (DP/FPA/1996/19);

Took note of the periodic report on evaluation (DP/FPA/1996/20);

Adopted decision 96/26 of 8 May 1996 on the work plan of the United Nations Population Fund for 1997-2000 and request for programme expenditure authority;

Adopted decision 96/27 of 17 May 1996 on enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial resource utilization in recipient countries, in particular in Africa;

ITEM 4: MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Adopted decision 96/28 of 8 May 1996 on the mission statement of the United Nations Population Fund;

UNDP/UNFPA JOINT SEGMENT

ITEM 5: UNDP/UNFPA: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Took note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (DP/FPA/1996/17 (Part II)) and the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (DP/1996/18/Add.2) and agreed to transmit them, together with, as annexes: (a) the extract of the report on the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board dealing with the joint UNDP/UNFPA segment; (b) the extract of the report on the annual session of the Board dealing with the implementation of programming arrangements; and (c) the extract of the report on the second regular session 1996 of the Board dealing with evaluation;

ITEM 6: UNDP/UNFPA: HARMONIZATION OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS

Took note of the oral progress report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts with the comments made thereon;

UNDP SEGMENT

ITEM 7: UNDP: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

Took note of the annual report of the Administrator for 1995: introduction (DP/1996/18); main programme record (DP/1996/18/Add.1); reports of the Joint Inspection Unit of interest to UNDP (DP/1996/18/Add.3); and statistical annex (DP/1996/18/Add.4), taking into account the views expressed by delegations during the discussion of the item as reflected in the report on the session;

Took note of the report on the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (DP/1996/20);

Adopted decision 96/29 of 15 May 1996 on the UNDP mission statement.

ITEM 8: UNDP: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Took note of the report of the Administrator on the implementation of the successor programming arrangements with the comments made thereon (DP/1996/21);

Adopted decision 96/30 of 17 May 1996 extending special status to Namibia equivalent to that given to least developed countries;

ITEM 9: AGENCY SUPPORT COSTS

Adopted decision 96/31 of 15 May 1996 on the implementation of the support costs components of the successor programming arrangements;

ITEM 10: UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Adopted decision 96/32 of 10 May 1996 on the United Nations Volunteers;

ITEM 11: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

Took note of the oral report on the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

ITEM 12: UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Adopted decision 96/33 of 15 May 1996 on the United Nations Office for Project Services;

ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS

Took note of the presentation made by the UNAIDS representative.

17 June 1995

Annex

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS

The following subjects are scheduled for consideration at future sessions:

Third regular session (9-13 September 1996)

Item 1. Organizational matters

Item 2. Matters relating to rules of procedure, documentation and the functioning of the Executive Board

Item 3. Annual work plan for the Executive Board 1997

UNDP segment

Item 4. UNDP: Matters relating to programming cycles: Follow-up to Executive Board decisions 95/23 and 95/26

Item 5. UNDP: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (including follow-up to Executive Board decision 96/21 on the Office of United Nations System Support Services and report on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office)

Item 6. UNDP: Country programmes and related matters

Item 7. United Nations Development Fund for Women: Follow-up to Executive Board decisions 95/18 and 95/32

UNFPA/UNDP segment

Item 8. UNFPA/UNDP: Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts

Item 9. UNFPA/UNDP: Report on field visit to Africa

UNFPA segment

Item 10. UNFPA: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Item 11. UNFPA: Country programmes and related matters

Item 12. UNFPA: Oral report on inter-agency coordination in health policy and programming

Item 13. Other matters

First regular session 1997 (13-17 January 1997)

- Organizational matters

- Matters relating to rules of procedure, documentation and the functioning of the Executive Board

- Annual work plan for the Executive Board 1997

UNFPA segment

- Country programmes and related matters

- Audit reports

UNFPA/UNDP segment

- Follow-up to and preparations for the work of the Economic and Social Council (95/37)

- Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts

UNDP segment

- Matters relating to the programming cycle: Report on assistance to Myanmar (96/01)

- Audit reports (95/3)

- Country cooperation frameworks (95/25)

- United Nations technical cooperation activities (94/27)

96/35. Activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office in 1994 and 1995, and the contribution by the Office to the coordination of procurement activities, improved transparency in operations and promotion of competition for contracts within the United Nations system;

2. Takes note of the 1995 Annual Statistical Report on procurement by the United Nations system, and welcomes the consolidated reporting of such data;

3. Recommends that the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office continue to explore ways to enter into arrangements for coordinated procurement with United Nations entities, drawing on the respective strengths of each entity.

10 September 1996

96/36. Report on accountability in the United Nations Development Programme

The Executive Board

1. Notes the report of the Administrator on accountability in the United Nations Development Programme;

2. Supports the direction being pursued by the United Nations Development Programme to make it a more effective, efficient and accountable organization;

3. Requests the Administrator to report informally at each session of the Executive Board on the progress made to implement the accountability framework.

11 September 1996

96/37. Revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 of the United Nations Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 (DP/1996/36);

2. Takes note of the changes in financial reporting procedures that have been introduced with effect from the 1996-1997 biennium; and

3. Approves the revised budget estimates for the 1996-1997 biennium in the amount of $65,444,000.

11 September 1996

96/38. Coordination in health policy and programming

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the oral report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on coordination in health policy and programming;

2. Reaffirms the need for close collaboration at all levels among the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund in the area of health policy and programming, including reproductive health, and invites the UNICEF-WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy

to ensure that the United Nations Population Fund can participate in the meetings of the Joint Committee on Health Policy;

3. Requests the President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, with the assistance of the secretariat of the United Nations Population Fund, to ascertain the views of the Executive Boards of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund on possible membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund in the Joint Committee on Health Policy;

4. Requests the President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund to take appropriate action to enable the United Nations Population Fund secretariat to participate as an observer in the Joint Committee on Health Policy in January 1997;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its second regular session 1997 on the observations made in the Joint Committee on Health Policy and to make further recommendations as appropriate on the action needed for the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to obtain full membership.

13 September 1996

96/39. UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules

The Executive Board

1. Notes the intention of the Administrator to expand the resource base for programmable activities by seeking more aggressively resources from non-governmental sources, bearing in mind the neutral and apolitical nature of United Nations Development Programme cooperation;

2. Approves the changes to the Financial Regulations as proposed in paragraph 8 of addendum 4 of the report of the Administrator on the annual review of the financial situation, 1995 (DP/1996/28/Add.4);

3. Requests the Administrator to keep the Executive Board regularly apprised of the status of the resource mobilization initiatives from non-governmental sources and to present the detailed policy of the United Nations Development Programme in this matter within the context of the comprehensive review of the whole modality of non-core resources for discussion at the first regular session 1998 in accordance with Executive Board decision 96/44;

4. Further requests the Administrator to implement the resource mobilization initiatives in accordance with the sustainable human development framework, contained in decision 94/14, and consistent with national development priorities;

5. Approves the changes to Financial Regulation 2.2 M (i), as proposed in paragraph 12 of addendum 4 of the report of the Administrator on the annual review of the financial situation, 1995 (DP/1996/28/Add.4).

13 September 1996

96/40. Management, accountability and the Reserve for Field Accommodation

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the report contained in document DP/1996/28/Add.3 and the additional information provided to the Executive Board by the Administrator and the United Nations Board of Auditors, as well as the transparent and forthcoming manner in which information on the Reserve for Field Accommodation has been provided;

2. Notes with grave concern the failure of management oversight and control relating to the proper application of the Financial Regulations and Rules and the supervision of staff and contracted parties that have contributed to the problems outlined in document DP/1996/28/Add.3, concerning the Reserve for Field Accommodation;

3. Welcomes in this context the investigations, reviews and actions initiated so far by the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen financial and management control of the Reserve for Field Accommodation;

4. Requests the Administrator to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with all Financial Regulations and Rules, including additional efforts in the area of training of staff in financial management and oversight;

5. Further requests the Administrator to address any structural or systemic problems relating to financial control and management supervision that have come to light as part of the investigation of the Reserve for Field Accommodation as soon as possible in order to ensure that this remains an isolated incident;

6. Urges the Administrator to finalize the investigation on the management of the Reserve for Field Accommodation as soon as possible and to ensure that within the framework of accountability, responsibility is assigned at the individual level;

7. Endorses the revised accounting treatment for the Reserve for Field Accommodation and notes with concern that the overcommitment and overexpenditure will reach a level of $62.8 million by 31 December 1996;

8. Approves the proposal of the Administrator that the activities under the Reserve for Field Accommodation in the future cover only housing premises and that office premises be handled separately, bearing in mind the need to enhance transparency of the activities covered by the Reserve for Field Accommodation and those related to office premises;

9. Reaffirms, in the context of the housing premises, the principle that, where possible, UNDP should dispose of housing units it either owns or operates under government ownership and that any future housing requirements be met together with the host country Government;

10. Requests the Administrator, in collaboration with the Joint Consultative Group on Policy partners, in the context of the implementation of paragraph 44 of General Assembly resolution 50/120 on common premises, to address and find a common understanding of how to deal with outstanding contributions as well as cost-sharing, payment and ownership relating to future constructions;

11. Further requests the Administrator to report on the implementation of the present decision at the first regular session 1997.

13 September 1996

96/41. Revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the comments made by delegations during the Board discussions on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 and of the report of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/1996/30);

2. Approves with respect to the revised budget estimates for the 1996-1997 biennium of the United Nations Development Programme and the funds administered by the Programme, contained in document DP/1996/29, a revised appropriation in the amount of $579,146,800 gross, to be allocated from the resources indicated in the table below, to finance the revised 1996-1997 biennial budget and resolves that the income estimates in the amount of $38,000,000 shall be used to offset the gross appropriation, resulting in a net appropriation of $541,146,800;

3. Also approves the proposals of the Administrator contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of document DP/1996/29 relating to the establishment of a country office in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

4. Requests the Administrator, in the context of continuous reporting on the progress of the management of change process, to present to the Board at its second regular session 1997, an outline of the overall strategy for the budget for the biennium 1998-1999, taking into account the importance of the organizational capacity of the United Nations Development Programme, in particular the adequacy of human resources both at headquarters and country levels, for the effective support of its programme;

5. Approves the proposals of the Administrator contained in paragraphs 14 to 21 of document DP/1996/29, relating to the principles and criteria that will be used to determine the amounts to be reimbursed by host Governments as contributors towards local office costs;

6. Takes note of the reports of the Administrator on: (a) the use and status of the reserves that were established for staff separations and transitional measures; (b) pilot arrangements relating to reclassification; (c) the Office of United Nations System Support and Services; and (d) the deferment of the application of the staffing formula applied to the United Nations Volunteers;

7. Urges the Administrator to redouble his efforts to obtain more support for the Office of United Nations System Support and Services while expecting full cooperation from other bodies of the United Nations system, and to keep the Board informed of the progress made in gathering such support;

8. Requests the Administrator to bring paragraph 7 of the present decision to the attention of the United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, and the Secretariat;

9. Authorizes the Administrator to maintain an accounting linkage between voluntary contributions and contributions to local office costs in such a manner that contributions are first applied against obligations towards local office costs;

10. Stresses the need for programme countries to meet in full their obligations towards the local office costs of the United Nations Development Programme;

11. Decides that in the case of countries with 1994 per capita gross national product of $4,701 and above:

(a) Where programme activities of the United Nations Development Programme exceed $12 million financed from all sources of financing over a three-year period, a resident representative and a second international staff member could be provided from the biennial budget of the Programme;

(b) Where programme activities of the United Nations Development Programme exceed $8 million financed from all sources of financing over a three-year period, a resident representative could be provided from the biennial budget of the Programme;

12. Decides that, in line with similar provisions of decision 95/23, countries exceeding the threshold of $4,701 per capita gross national product shall continue to be granted waivers for a period of three years, following the year of graduation;

13. Authorizes the Administrator to implement reclassification in the P-1 to P-5 range, provided that the aggregate effect of the changes in the classified level of posts is subject to a zero-sum limitation;

14. Decides to keep the issue of local office costs under review in the context of the budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

UNDP revised budget proposals for the 1996-1997 biennium, showing estimated extrabudgetary income from external sources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Appropriation estimates	Estimated extrabudgetary income	Total gross/net estimates
I. RESOURCES OF UNDP			
A. UNDP core activities[a]			
Headquarters[b]	144 321.0	36 479.4	180 800.4
Country offices	232 507.2	45 267.5	277 774.7
Gross UNDP core activities	376 828.2	81 746.9	458 575.1
Estimated income	38 000.0	0.0	38 000.0
Net UNDP core activities	338 828.2	81 746.9	420 575.1
B. Programme support and development activities			
Programme development activities	30 828.7	0.0	30 828.7
Support to the operational activities of the United Nations	96 556.3	0.0	96 556.3
Project/programme implementation services			
DSS	7 223.4	0.0	7 223.4
IAPSO	4 446.9	3 911.4	8 358.3
UNV	34 407.7	2 999.7	37 407.4
National execution	3 875.3	0.0	3 875.3
Total project/programme implementation services	49 953.3	6 911.1	56 864.4
Programme support	2 300.0	0.0	2 300.0
Total programme support and development activities	179 638.3	6 911.1	186 549.4
C. Total resources of UNDP			
Gross resources	556 466.5	88 658.0	645 124.5
Estimated income	38 000.0	0.0	38 000.0
Net resources	518 466.5	88 658.0	607 124.5
II. RESOURCES OF FUNDS			
A. UNCDF	9 207.8	0.0	9 207.8
B. UNRFNRE and UNFSTD	1 147.2	324.8	1 472.0
C. UNSO	7 030.6	1 207.3	8 237.9
D. UNIFEM	5 294.7	310.1	5 604.8
Total resources of Funds	22 680.3	1 842.2	24 522.5
III. TOTAL UNDP APPROPRIATIONS			
Gross appropriations	579 146.8	90 500.2	669 647.0
Estimated income	38 000.0	0.0	38 000.0
Net UNDP appropriations	541 146.8	90 500.2	631 647.0

[a] The Administrator is permitted to redeploy between the country offices and headquarters appropriation lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent.

[b] Extrabudgetary income represents income from external sources, exclusive of reimbursements from non-core units; these are included in the appropriation estimates of the non-core units.

13 September 1996

96/42. Global cooperation framework

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the global cooperation framework contained in document DP/GCF/GLO/1;

2. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1997 a revised text of the global cooperation framework, taking into account clarifications given and comments made, and without prejudice to the implementation of the global cooperation framework as presented and orally clarified at the current session to be approved, on a no-objection basis.

13 September 1996

96/43. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the report of the external evaluation of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (DP/1996/33), in accordance with Executive Board decision 96/32;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the initial actions being undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the proposals on follow-up to the recommendations of the Fund's external evaluation, as reflected in the reaction of the Fund to the evaluation report given during the current session;

3. Requests the United Nations Development Fund for Women to elaborate a more detailed and comprehensive response to the evaluation of the Fund by the first regular session 1997;

Programme strategies

4. Decides that the United Nations Development Fund for Women should produce a concise strategy and supporting business plan that emphasizes its catalytic, mainstreaming and advocacy roles. This should also demonstrate the Fund's intention to work increasingly with strategic and capacity-building activities. The strategy and business plan should clearly identify the Fund's role in the United Nations system and how its work relates to the work of other United Nations bodies. The Fund should report orally on progress at the first regular session 1997 and present the strategy paper and business plan during the annual session 1997;

5. Also decides that, in accordance with the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and with General Assembly resolution 50/120, the strategy should give due consideration to activities in the least developed countries and low-income countries, particularly in Africa;

6. Recommends that the United Nations Development Fund for Women continue to focus its programme and strengthen programme design and performance;

Management and administration

7. Encourages the United Nations Development Fund for Women to adjust, within the approved budget, its management, administration and personnel, bearing in mind the need to keep administrative costs at an appropriate level;

Coordination

8. Requests that the United Nations Development Fund for Women cooperate closely with the relevant United Nations organs and bodies, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, in order to ensure that the Fund's advocacy activities form part of the system-wide efforts of the United Nations in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication and overlap;

Relationship with the United Nations Development Programme

9. Decides to consider at the first regular session 1997 the request of the Administrator that the United Nations Development Fund for Women may access funds from the support to policy and programme development facility, which will replace the TSS-1 facility in January 1997; and that arrangements be further explored regarding the possibility for the Fund to access United Nations Development Programme resources for purposes within the Fund's mandate and in accordance with United Nations Development Programme mandate and objectives, without jeopardizing the latter's own responsibility for the advancement of women;

Financial and reporting arrangements

10. Agrees to the re-establishment of the operational reserve at the initial level of $3 million and requests the United Nations Development Fund for Women to submit a detailed proposal for the methodology for calculating both the annual approval ceilings and the maintenance of the operational reserve level at the first regular session 1997 in preparation for the re-establishment of the partial funding system;

11. Invites the General Assembly to review the role of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, bearing in mind the need for appropriate governance of the Fund;

12. Invites the United Nations Development Fund for Women to continue its efforts to diversify its resource base by, inter alia, fund-raising from the private sector;

13. Decides that the Fund shall resume biennial reporting on its work to the Executive Board, preferably during its annual session, except where separate reporting arrangements have been requested.

13 September 1996

96/44. Annual review of the financial situation, 1995

The Executive Board

1. Expresses concern over the reduction in voluntary contributions to core resources of the United Nations Development Programme and reiterates its calls on donors to increase their contributions in light of the estimated planning figures for contributions adopted by the Executive Board and encourages the Programme to continue working actively in order to secure a more predictable level of core resources;

2. Notes with concern the build-up in the balance of general resources of the United Nations Development Programme;

3. Also notes the measures taken by the Administrator to address the matter and urges the Administrator to continue the efforts to improve programme delivery, keeping in view the importance of maintaining and improving the quality of programming by the United Nations Development Programme;

4. Decides to continue the application of the agreed formula for determining the level of the Operational Reserve;

5. Requests the Administrator to present by January 1998 a comprehensive review of the whole modality of non-core resources from donor countries in relation to their financial management, focusing on their cost effect on core resources and also requests the Administrator, in this context, to pursue efforts to ensure the substantive alignment of all non-core resources with the mandate and areas of focus of the organization, as contained in decision 94/14, and to define the role of the Executive Board in this process.

13 September 1996

96/45. Documentation

The Executive Board

1. Recalls the importance of strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations, in particular General Assembly resolutions 50/11 and 50/206;

2. Decides to establish page limits for documents to be submitted to the Executive Board, as contained in the annex to the present decision;

3. Requests the Administrator and the Executive Director to continue to uphold and seek to improve the quality of the reports submitted to the Executive Board, making them more concise and action-oriented and to enforce, where appropriate, the page limits set out in the annex to the present decision;

4. Decides that:

(a) Reports over five pages long (excluding country programming documents) shall have an executive summary;

(b) Statistical annexes, tables, case studies and similar documentation shall, to the extent possible, be presented in addenda to the main document;

5. Also decides that any report exceeding the number of pages set out in the annex to the present decision shall be considered only on an exceptional basis and if duly justified to the Executive Board;

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to comply with the six-week rule established by the General Assembly and most recently reaffirmed in its resolution 50/206 by undertaking all possible efforts to ensure that documents are submitted to the United Nations Office of Conference and Support Services 10 weeks before the start of a session; and to maintain close coordination with the United Nations Office of Conference and Support Services in all matters pertaining to the submission and issuance of documentation, including the electronic distribution of documentation submitted to the Executive Board;

7. Decides, on a temporary basis, that in cases where a report has not been issued in all languages six weeks before the start of a session, the secretariat may distribute advance copies of the report at that time to the members of the Executive Board, including through electronic means where possible, in the language of submission; and that such documentation be also made available to observers at the same time;

8. Requests the Administrator and the Executive Director to examine whether current staffing levels in the respective secretariats are adequate to meet the provisions approved in the present decision for quality, length and timely distribution of documentation;

9. Calls upon all members of the Executive Board to exercise restraint in requesting reports and policy papers and to consider the possibility of greater use of oral reports;

10. Reaffirms the principle of the simultaneous distribution of all conference room papers in the three working languages before the start of or during a session.

13 September 1996

Annex

PAGE LIMITS FOR REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

UNDP

1. Policy papers shall not exceed 15 pages;

2. Country cooperation frameworks shall follow a common format and shall not exceed the range of 6-10 pages;

3. Reports concerning budgetary and financial matters shall not be subject to the 15-page limit but shall nonetheless be as concise as possible, with due regard to the need to present statistical annexes and data in addenda to the main document in line with paragraph 3 of the present decision.

UNFPA

1. Policy papers shall not exceed 15 pages;

2. New country programmes shall not exceed the range of 6-10 pages;

3. Requests for extensions and/or additional resources for country programmes shall not exceed the range of 3-5 pages;

4. Reports concerning budgetary and financial matters shall not be subject to the 15-page limit but shall nonetheless be as concise as possible, with due regard to the need to present statistical annexes and data in addenda to the main document in line with paragraph 3 of the present decision.

96/46. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1996

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the third regular session 1996 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its third regular session 1996 (DP/1996/L.16 and Add.1);

Approved the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

First regular session 1997:	13-17 January 1997
Second regular session 1997:	10-14 March 1997
Annual session 1997:	12-23 May 1997
Third regular session 1997:	15-19 September 1997

ITEM 2: MATTERS RELATING TO RULES OF PROCEDURE, DOCUMENTATION AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Adopted decision 96/45 of 13 September 1996 on documentation;

Took note of the interim report on rules of procedure (DP/1996/CRP.12);

ITEM 3: ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 1997 FOR THE UNDP/UNFPA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Took note of the outlines of UNDP and UNFPA issues proposed for consideration by the Executive Board in 1997 with the comments made thereon (DP/1996/CRP.13);

UNDP SEGMENT

ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO PROGRAMMING CYCLES: FOLLOW-UP TO EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION 95/26

Took note of the report on the implementation of decision 95/26 on matters relating to programming cycles (DP/1996/27);

ITEM 5: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Adopted decision 96/44 of 13 September 1996 on the annual review of the financial situation 1995;

Took note of the annual review of net flow of contributions by donor and recipient Governments (DP/1995/28/Add.1);

Took note of the review of trust fund established by the Administrator in 1992-1994 and 1995 (DP/1996/28/Add.2);

Adopted decision 96/40 of 13 September 1996 on management, accountability and the Reserve for Field Accommodation;

Adopted decision 96/39 of 13 September 1996 on UNDP financial regulations and rules;

Adopted decision 96/41 of 13 September 1996 on UNDP revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997;

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the revised budget estimates for the 1995-1996 biennium and budget estimates for the 1996-1997 biennium (DP/1996/30);

Adopted decision 96/35 of 10 September 1996 on the Inter-Agency Procurement and Services Office;

Took note of the report on the United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures (DP/1996/32 and Add.1);

Took note of the report on follow-up information pertaining to cost segments at headquarters in New York (DP/1996/37);

Took note of the report on follow-up to decision 96/21 on support to resident coordinators (DP/1996/CRP.18);

Took note of the follow-up information on the financial situation (DP/1996/CRP.19);

ITEM 6: UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Adopted decision 96/37 of 11 September 1996 on the United Nations Office for Project Services revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 (DP/1996/36);

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the United Nations Office for Project Services revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 (DP/1996/38);

ITEM 7: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the first country cooperation framework for the People's Republic of China (DP/CCF/CPR/1);

Approved the first country cooperation framework for Viet Nam (DP/CCF/VIE/1);

Adopted decision 96/42 of 13 September 1996 on the global cooperation framework;

ITEM 8: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

Adopted decision 96/43 of 13 September 1996 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

UNDP/UNFPA SEGMENT

ITEM 9: UNFPA/UNDP: HARMONIZATION OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS

Took note of the oral report of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA;

ITEM 10: REPORT ON FIELD VISIT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Took note of the report of the field visits of the Executive Board to Malawi and Mozambique (DP/1996/CRP.14);

UNFPA SEGMENT

ITEM 11: UNFPA: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Took note of the annual financial review, 1995 (DP/FPA/1996/22);

ITEM 12: UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved assistance to the Government of Honduras (DP/FPA/CP/154);

Approved assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka (DP/FPA/CP/155);

Approved assistance to the Government of Tunisia (DP/FPA/CP/156);

Approved assistance to the Palestinian People (DP/FPA/CP/157);

Approved assistance to the Government of Viet Nam (DP/FPA/CP/158);

Approved assistance to the Government of Cambodia (DP/FPA/CP/159);

Approved assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe (DP/FPA/CP/160);

Approved request for extension of, and additional resources, for the UNFPA country programme for Cuba (DP/FPA/1996/23);

Approved request for extension of, and additional resources, for the UNFPA country programme for Madagascar (DP/FPA/1996/24);

Approved request for extension of, and additional resources for, the UNFPA country programme for Bolivia (DP/FPA/1996/25);

Approved request and additional resources for, the UNFPA country programme for Ethiopia (DP/FPA/1996/26);

ITEM 13: UNFPA: INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION IN HEALTH POLICY AND PROGRAMMING

Adopted decision 96/38 of 13 September 1996 on inter-agency coordination in health policy and programming;

ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

Adopted decision 96/36 of 11 September 1996 on the report on accountability in UNDP.

13 September 1996

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR FIRST REGULAR SESSION
(13-17 JANUARY 1997)

Item 1. Organizational matters

- Annual work plan 1997
- Rules of procedure

UNDP segment

Item 2. Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

- Country cooperation frameworks
- Regional and global cooperation frameworks
- Report on assistance to Myanmar (96/01)

Item 3. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

- Audit reports (95/3)
- Implementation of decision 96/40 on management, accountability and the Reserve for Field Accommodation
- Report on the accountability system of UNDP

Item 4. United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 5. Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (written report)

UNFPA segment

Item 6. Country programmes and related matters

Item 7. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

- Audit reports

Item 8. Other matters